Concessions to facilitate Exports

*86. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced a series of concessions for facilitating exports to the developing countries; and

(b) if so, indicate the concessions and the names of Indian exporters who will be benefited by such concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) No special concessions are being provided for facilitating exports to developing countries.

The Export-Import Policy, inter-alia, aims to accelerate the country's transition to an internationally oriented economy with a view to derive maximum benefit from the expanding global market opportunities. Constant efforts are made to diversify India's export basket, both in terms of commodity and country coverage, including export to developing countries. Export promotion is a continuous process and suitable steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other relevant interests. The export promotion measures of the Government are not designed to assist individual exporters.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the first part of my question to the hon. Minister is:

> "whether Government have recently announced a series of concessions for facilitating exports to the developing countries."

The hon. Minister has replied:

> "No special concession..."

I did not ask for any special concessions to be given for the purpose of exports to the developing countries. I simply asked whether there was a series of concessions given by the Government for exports to developing countries. Therefore, Sir, I think the hon. Minister has not understood my question or he has understood the question but has not answered it properly. That might be the case.

The purpose of my asking the question is that the Government of India is concentrating its efforts more for exports to developed countries. There is competition. Futher more, there is low price, and the exporters are not in a position to compete in the international market as far as exports to developed countries are concerned. But as far as the developing countries are concerned, India's exports will increase. The exporters and the developing countries will mutually get the benefit for the reason that there would not be much competition and the price will be that which is acceptable to the exporter and the developing countries. That is the purpose for which I asked the question, but the hon. Minister talked of the policy. I would like to know whether the Government will consider giving concessions to the developing countries by which India's exports will be facilitated to the developing countries also instead of concentrating on the development countries. It is a very pertinent question, Sir. Will the Minister consider this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is pertinent and you have asked it.

SHRI P. CHAIDAMBARAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry if the hon. Member thinks that I have not understood his question or have not answered it correctly. The point is that no concessions, special or otherwise, have been announced for facilitating exports to developing countries. The question is what concessions we can provide to facilitate our exports to the developing countries. The answer is obvious. Our exports are their imports. They have tariff barriers; they have non-tariff barriers. We all are bound by an MFN (Most Favoured Nation) regime which we have to apply equally to all countries. We cannot give any special facility for exports to the developing countries. I

think the question itself is a little off the mark in the sense that it refers to exports. We cannot give any concession to facilitate our exports to the developing countries. What we can give is facilities to enable them to export to us; and that I am willing to consider, particularly to the least developed countries. I do not think my learned friend is quite right in saying that I have not answered his question. I have tried to answer it to the best of my ability

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, Japan, the United States and some of the developed countries in Europe, not in the name of the Most Favoured Nation, are dumping their goods in the developing countries by giving them concessions. This is the purpose of my asking the question, because India is to compete in the developing countries with the developed countries, which are exporting their goods to those countries. Therefore, in order to compete with the developed countries in the markets in the developing countries, what should be our stand? What have our exporters to do? The Government of India has to support them for that. Therefore, I would like to know the Minister's response when the developed countries are doing it for the purpose of giving benefit to their exporters, why not we do it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we also give a large number of concessions and support to facilitate our exports. There are non-discretionary subsidies, non-discretionary concessions. These are aimed at promoting our exports all over the world. Anti-dumping is a very different issue. It is not based on any concession. Anti-dumping is attracted when manufacturers dump their products in India and we have anti-dumping laws. Similarly other countries have anti-dumping laws. If the hon. Member is suggesting that we should dump our products in other countries, that would hurt the developing countries. It would not help the developing countries and anti-dumping laws will take over. The point is whether we have a package of insentives and concessions to ...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is not a question of dumping, Sir. Competing in the international market in the developing countries when the developed countries are putting their goods and selling it at a lower price is not dumping.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is not correct. If a developed country gives any concession and sells it at a price which is less than its market price, it is dumping. It will attract anti-dumping laws. We cannot do that. In fact, we will be hurting the developing countries if we dump our products in those countries. Just as we would not like any one to dump his products in our country, no developing country would allow us to dump our products there. The question really is—as I think it should be—what basket of facilities we are giving for our exporters. We have a number of facilities and that is why our exports have grown last year by 20 per cent in dollar terms and this year exports are growing by 17 per cent in dollar terms. The other side of the question, what facilities we are giving to the developing countries to enable them to export to us, as I said, is under consideration.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: The hon. Member has promised to pay attention to imports from the developing countries. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is paying any special attention to evolving a new methodology for trading with the SAARC countries?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am grateful for the question. This is the real issue between India and the developing countries and how do we help them to export their products to India. Now, we are a Member of SAARC. We are one of the strong supporters of SAPTA. As the hon. Member and other Members know the SAPTA has not taken off for a variety of reasons. There will be a meeting shortly on SAPTA and I hope that there will be a progress on

SAPTA. We fully support all SAPTA. Within SAPTA, we have had a bilateral discussion with Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. I hope that we would be able to take a set of decisions by the end of this month. But that would require decision-making at the Government level. But I hope, Sir, when we announce the new policy or changes to the policy on the 31st March, we will take care of the demands of Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are interested in globalisation. I am not sure whether the United States is interested in it because they are imposing all kinds of non-tariff barriers. You must be aware of it. The Minister has mentioned about the anti-dumping laws. The experience with the East-Asian countries is that the U. S. used this anti-dumping laws to harass them first and then force them to sign a document for voluntary export restraint so that only a certain number of units can be sold, not more than that. They have been doing it with the East-Asian countries. I understand that with our pure steel, they are also trying the same trick. First, they have started imposing anti-dumping law against us on pure steel. They would probably force us to go in for voluntary export restraint.

Another non-tariff barrier which they are imposing, as you know, is related to eco-labelling. They are now specifying the environmental standards which have been worked out by the companies in their own countries; and are not all owing our exports into their country. Recently, Sayas of Jaipur have been discouraged from exports on a flimsy environmental grounds. The point I am making is that whether the Minister is taking any steps to ensure that such non-traiff barriers which are severely discriminating against the Third World countries exports, particularly non-tariff barrier against our country do not remain. If there is globalisation, then, let there be a level playing field so that we are not discriminated against.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I will be glad to answer the question, if you think that it arises out of the main question. It does not. Since my hon. friend, for whom I have great respect, has raised a very pertinent issue. I will answer. There are non-tariff barriers which hurt our exports. One of them is anti-dumping. The other is ecological and environmental standards. We are conscious of them. We will not accept any voluntary export restraints. We will support every exporter who wishes to challenge an anti-dumping duty levied on him by going through the quasi-judicial procedure in that country. I have offered support to exporters in the form of legal assistance and technical assistance. Our Embassies and missions will support them. But the world is a cruel world. We have to live in this cruel world and fight these tendencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 87.

*87 The Questioner (Chaudhary Harmohan Singh) was absent. For answer wide Col. .... .. infra.

Operating temperature at Dankuni Coal Complex

*88. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:†

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 714 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12-12-94. and state:

(a) whether the designed operating temparature in the vertical continuous retorts at Dankuni Coal Complex is around 1350 degree centigrade, if so, whether the same comes in the range of low temperature carbonisation plant;

(b) the designed product range (including bi-products) with quailty and quantity of Dankuni Complex as per the original project report and the present production against each item alongwith the variation in product quality, if any.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey.